

Public Health 4th Floor; 300 Carlton Street Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9 vaccines@gov.mb.ca

Re: 2023/24 COVID-19 and Influenza Immunization Program: Combined Vaccine Ordering and Delivery Model

Dear Health Care Provider:

For the 2023/24 season, the ordering of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines will be combined into one process. This way, immunization providers will be able to place orders and receive deliveries of both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time.

In order to participate in the 2023/24 influenza and COVID-19 immunization program, all health care providers will need to register. Those who currently order COVID-19 vaccines through the survey process will continue to do so at this time, but will still be required to register for the 2023/24 influenza and COVID-19 immunization program. Communication will be sent in the coming weeks to advise when the current COVID-19 vaccine ordering will cease to allow for a transition to the new season.

While there will be no deadline to register, it is strongly recommended that providers do so no later than August 15, 2023, to ensure receipt of all communications, allow for the creation of distribution groups, and allocation planning. The new program is expected to streamline the process and make it more efficient for all providers.

Please, be advised that the provision of administration supplies for COVID-19 vaccines will be discontinued effective September 1, 2023. As the inventory of supplies runs out it will be removed from the current COVID-19 ordering surveys. Providers are expected to source their administration supplies as they did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information regarding the new influenza and COVID-19 vaccine ordering and delivery program, including a link to the new registration form, a timeline for the first survey, order frequency, and other information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

***NOTE**: The remodelled ordering and distribution process applies to the seasonal flu vaccine (standard and high dose), the pneumococcal polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23), and COVID-19 vaccines.

Please, be reminded to locate and return expired publicly-funded influenza vaccines as per the letter sent on June 5 available at <u>https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/distribution.html</u>. Manitoba may receive credit for returned vaccines and this is especially important for influenza vaccines at this time of year. Failure to return vaccine doses that were ordered and not administered may result in providers receiving fewer doses than ordered.

If you have any questions, please contact the Communicable Disease Control Unit at 204-788-6737 or by email at <u>vaccines@gov.mb.ca</u>.

Thank you,

"Original Signed By"

Richard Baydack, PhD A/Co – Executive Director Population and Public Health Communicable Disease Control